

Upper Darling Region Nocolche Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2005

This strategy should be used in conjunction with field reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans. This strategy is a relevant plan under Sections 38(4) & 44(3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997.

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WARNINGS

The wetland areas of the Paroo River and Cuttaburra Channels contain black soil country, which has "sink holes". These slow down vehicles and may cause damage to vehicles and injury to crews. Drivers should remain on used vehicle tracks wherever possible. The rough conditions could lead to entrapment of crews if caught in these areas.

Bogging of vehicles must also be considered if rain is predicted or there has been recent rainfall.

The stony country in the southwest corner of the reserve is extremely slow to traverse, fire with a high rate of spread could overrun crews operating in this area.

Dams and tanks should be assessed before being assigned as water sources.

This map should be used in conjunction with air photos and ground reconnaissance during incidents and the development of incident action plans.

ADVANTAGES

The Wansaring to Wilcannia public road, which is thirty metres wide, bisects the reserve roughly in the middle, providing a potential control line.

CONTACT NUMBERS

NPWS	02 6872 2744
Bourke	02 6874 7821
Nocolche SFO	02 6874 7788
Nocolche Fax	
NSW Rural Fire Service	02 68724023
Bourke Fire Control Centre	02 68724023
Zone Manager	0419 248 404
NSW Fire Brigades	
Wansaring Village	02 6874 7760
SES Duty Officer	132500
Police	
Wansaring	02 6874 7717
Ambulance	131233
Shire Council	
Bourke	6872 2055
	0419 722 055

ASSET COORDINATES

Name	Easting (AMG 66)	Northing	Latitude (deg dec min)	Longitude
NPWS Residence	221326	6695578	29° 50.3256	144° 06.9535
Quarters	222899	6694146	29° 51.1219	144° 07.9077
Airstrip	221630	6694916	29° 50.6877	144° 07.1324

RADIO COMMUNICATION

UHF Channel 37	Generally good coverage vehicle to vehicle across the reserve
HF	Use channels 1 to 3 before midday and channels 4 to 6 after
Phone Coverage	
Reliable Satellite phone coverage	
No CDMA coverage	

FIRE BEHAVIOUR AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Broad Vegetation Type	Fire Behaviour Characteristics	Vegetation Management Guidelines
Mulga Woodlands (Mulga, Whitewood, Bimble box, Turpentine and Hop bush)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient fuel to carry fire may only be produced after several successive above average wet seasons ROS may exceed 5km per hour Fires are infrequent >50 year events but may be large landscape events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning may be used if appropriate for ecological or fuel reduction purposes The minimum interval between fires should be ten years
Flood Plain Woody Vegetation (Yapunya, Black box, River red gum, River Cooba and Lignum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires are infrequent >50 year events Sufficient fuel to carry fire may only be produced after several successive above average wet seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum interval between fires should be twenty years

FIRE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

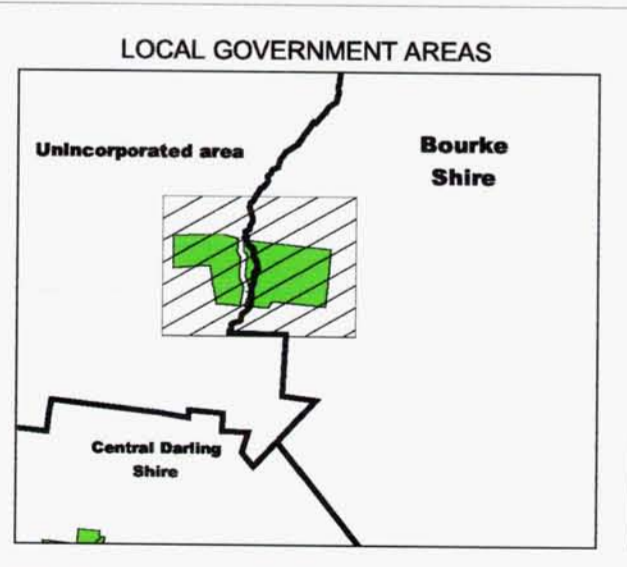
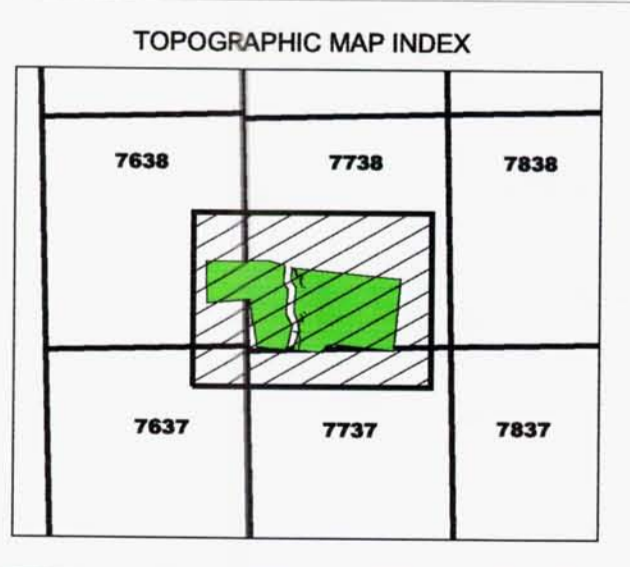
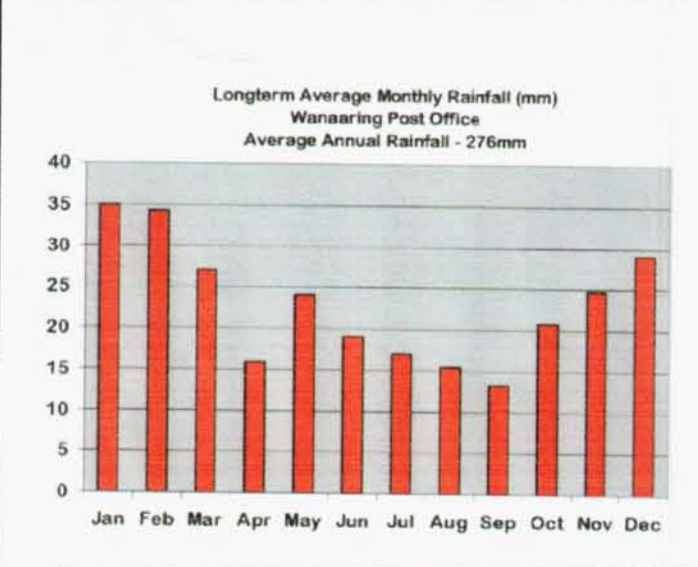
Command and Control	Suppression Strategies	Seasons with Low Fuel Loads	Suppression Strategies	Seasons with High Fuel Loads	Suppression Advantages	Earth Moving Machinery	Rehabilitation Works	Fire Fighting Chemicals	Prescribed Burning	Cultural Heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first fire agency on site will assume control of the fire incident and ensure remaining agencies are contacted On arrival of the other fire agencies, the initial Incident Controller will consult the other agencies on the in-charge arrangements and the requirements for an Incident Management Team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct and parallel attack should be attempted in combination with the option of backburning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing trails and roads should be considered for use as containment lines, allowing the fire area to be maximised. Decisions should be based on weather forecasts indicating the probability of success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parallel attack should be initially considered with running fires if a rapid containment is possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crews and machinery should fallback and backburn from existing trails and roads when fire runs exceeds control line construction rates. Secure and deepen control lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel loads in the Mulga Woodlands and Flood Plain Woody Vegetation are often low (particularly during below average rainfall years), providing opportunity for direct attack from crews. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides should be briefed on the location of environmentally sensitive areas. No scarred trees are to be removed. Fireline construction should avoid the removal of mature trees, especially in river areas. The Duty Officer must give approval for the use of earth moving machinery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire control lines constructed by earth-moving equipment should be established and rehabilitated at the completion of fire operations. Additional pest control after a fire particularly of rabbits may be necessary to control seedling grazing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam is permitted in suppression and mop-up activities. Foam is not to be used within 50 metres of water courses (tanks and drainage lines). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning for ecological and fuel reduction purposes may be undertaken in the Mulga Woodlands. Currently there are few recorded sites mainly in the vicinity of the Paroo river and adjacent river trails. The operational guidelines should be reviewed upon the completion of a comprehensive archaeological survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently there are few recorded sites mainly in the vicinity of the Paroo river and adjacent river trails. The operational guidelines should be reviewed upon the completion of a comprehensive archaeological survey.

FIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management Zone	Definition	Management Guidelines
Asset	Life, property and commercial assets on DEC estate	Ground cover slashed to a distance of 50 metres around all structures during seasons of higher fuel loads.
Strategic Advantage	Areas managed to assist in limiting the potential of fires escaping reserves during periods of high bushfire potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed burning or slashing may be conducted to a depth of 100 metres during seasons of higher fuel loads. Perimeter fire trails maintained to a minimum width of six metres and widened to twenty metres during seasons of high fuel loads
Heritage	Areas of high priority natural and cultural conservation value	Prescribed burns may be applied if considered appropriate for ecological purposes.

WORKS PROGRAM

Proposed Works	Details
Undertake fuel reduction works in Asset Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete as required for seasonal conditions and assessment of hazard.
Complete strategic fire trail network within reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete by end of 2008
Maintain fire trail network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure trails cleared to meet seasonal requirements All trails will have as minimum Cat 9/7 access subsequent to any maintenance activity.
Install road signs at fire trail intersections and permanent water points within reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete by end of 2007



LEGEND

Infrastructure	Airstrip	King Charlie Water Hole	NPWS Residence	Quarters	Public roads	Management trails	Minor trails	Contours 20m interval	Watercourse	Waterpoints	Waterholes	Unreliable tanks	Power lines	Neighbours
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